

Worksheet
Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The signed CONCLUSION at the end of this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal analysis process and does not constitute an appealable decision; however, it constitutes an administrative record to be provided as evidence in protest, appeals and legal procedures.

A. BLM Office: Price Field Office (UT-070)

Proposed Action Title: August 2007 Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Location of Proposed Action: Parcels within Carbon County, Utah. Attachment 2 contains legal descriptions for each parcel.

Description of the Proposed Action: The Utah State Office proposes to offer five parcels of land in Carbon County, Utah administered by the Price Field Office for oil and gas leasing in a competitive lease sale to be held in August 2007. All five parcels were assessed for land use plan compliance and NEPA adequacy. All five parcels are located in Carbon County, Utah. Attachment 2 lists all parcels including special lease stipulations and lease notices. These parcels include public lands or lands in which the mineral estate is administered by the BLM. If a parcel of land is not purchased at the lease sale by competitive bidding, it may still be leased within two years after the initial offering under a current review of NEPA adequacy. A lease may be held for ten years, after which the lease expires unless oil or gas is produced in paying quantities. A producing lease can be held indefinitely by economic production.

Planning decisions place certain lands in a no leasing category. Most lands are leased with minor stipulations attached to the lease from the appropriate land use plan for the area. Some lands are leased with limited areas of no surface occupancy within the lease boundaries. Some lands are leased with no stipulations other than those found on the standard lease contract form. A lease grants the right to drill for oil and gas, at some location on the lease.

A lessee must submit an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) (Form 3160-3) to the BLM for approval and must possess an approved APD prior to any surface disturbance in preparation for drilling. Any stipulations attached to the standard lease form must be complied before an APD may be approved. Following BLM approval of an APD, a lessee may produce oil and gas from the well in a manner approved by BLM in the APD or in subsequent sundry notices. The operator must notify the appropriate authorized officer, 48 hours before starting any surface disturbing activity approved in the APD.

Based on a review of the referenced preliminary oil and gas lease sale list (Attachment 2) there are potential conflicts with recoverable coal resources. All of the sale parcels listed in Attachment 3, are located within a Known Recoverable Coal Resource Area (KRCRA). All are located within areas with further development potential. Portions of two (UT0807-112 & 113) are located within an active Lease By Application (LBA) received March 28, 2007. Therefore these parcels will be withdrawn from lease sale consideration and were not included in this analysis.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

- Price River Management Framework Plan, September 2, 1983
- Price River Management Framework Plan Supplement, August 13, 1984

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Price River Management Framework Plan (MFP) Minerals M-1: Allow and encourage development of those Leasable minerals known to occur within the planning area in accordance with current laws and regulations so as to aid in filling the local and national energy requirements.

The Oil and Gas Category plats of the Price River MFP identify the stipulations to be attached to each lease or portion thereof.

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

- Price District Oil and Gas Environmental Analysis Record, August 15, 1975
- Price River Management Framework Plan Supplement, August 13, 1984
- EA Supplement on Cumulative Impacts on Oil and Gas Lease Categories, Price River Resource Area, December 23, 1988
- Mineral Potential Report, Price Field Office, Draft RMP EIS, May 2002
- Price Field Office Resource Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), July 2004 (referred to in this document as the 2004 draft RMP EIS)
- Price RMP ACEC Proposal Review Information 2003-2004

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

Item 1: Yes for the following parcel:

UT-0807-114

Item 1: Rationale for Yes: The Price District Oil and Gas Environmental Analysis Record, the 1988 Environmental Assessment (EA) Supplement on Cumulative Impacts on Oil and Gas Leasing Categories for Price River Resource Area analyzed the leasing of parcels for development of mineral resources.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?

Item 2: Yes for the following parcel:

UT-0807-114

Item 2: Rationale for Yes: The range of alternatives in the Price District Oil and Gas Environmental Analysis Record, 1984 Price River Resource Area Management Framework Plan Supplement, and the EA Supplement on Cumulative Impacts on Oil and Gas Lease Categories, Price River Resource Area, December 23, 1988 are appropriate. In the 1975 District Oil and gas EA, BLM evaluated leasing and one alternative, to not allow leasing. The Decision Record of the 1984 Price River Resource Area Management Framework Plan

Supplement states that alternatives were considered throughout the document including no action, open to leasing, leasing with special stipulations, no surface occupancy and no leasing.

3. **Is existing analysis adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?**

Item 3: Yes for the following parcel:

UT-0807-114

Item 3: Rationale for "Yes": The Price District Oil and Gas Environmental Analysis Record, the EA Supplement on Cumulative Impacts on Oil and Gas Lease Categories, Price River Resource Area, December 23, 1988 describe the resource values that could be affected by the proposed leasing. Since the publication of these NEPA documents, environmental justice, ground water quality, Native American Religious Concerns, and noxious weeds have been added to the list of critical elements of the human environment.

Environmental Justice: The ethnic composition and economic situation of residents of Carbon and Emery Counties indicate that no minority or low-income populations are experiencing disproportionately high or adverse effects from current management actions (2004 Draft RMP EIS, pg 3-62). Leasing would not adversely or disproportionately affect minority, low income or disadvantaged groups.

Groundwater: Groundwater quality for the land proposed for lease was analyzed in the original planning documents. Usable water zones would be isolated and protected under current regulations and Onshore Orders when permits are submitted and considered for approval.

Invasive, Non-native Species: Noxious weed introduction is limited by standard operating procedures and best management practices used as conditions of approval for surface use authorizations. These practices include, equipment washing, inspections and treatments to limit the spread or introduction of invasive, non-native species. Lease notices are applied when a parcel is located in an area where invasive, non-native species already occur.

Native American Religious Concerns: On May 4, 2007 certified consultation letters (attached to the cultural staff report in Attachment 4) were sent to the following Tribes: Southern Ute, Navajo, Shoshone-Wyoming, Hopi, Goshute, Zuni, Uintah and Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, Northwestern Band of the Shoshone, Shoshone-Bannock, and Paiute. The letters requested comments to be provided to the PFO within 30 days upon receipt of the letter. The last return receipt received was dated May 11, 2007. As of June 7, 2007, no responses have been received.

Cultural Resources: The area of potential effect as defined for the August 2007 Oil and Gas Lease Sale is identified by the legal descriptions provided in Attachment 2 for each lease parcel. The parcel recommended for sale within this lease sale was reviewed for the presence of cultural resources.

The information on previous archaeological inventories and recorded sites comes from the archaeological site files located at the BLM Field Office in Price, Utah. Many of the previous inventories are over twenty years old and were made at a different standard than today. Additional sites are expected to exist that have not been

recorded. The existing inventories and others surrounding this parcel is sufficient to determine that historic properties are likely to be present on this proposed lease parcel.

This evaluation is based on the assumption, supported by topography, perceived site density, existing access possibilities and previous inventories in the area of the parcel, there should be a place on each lease parcel that one five acre well pad could be developed without directly affecting a significant cultural resource. Also it is the policy of this office that with the addition of the stipulation required by WO IM 2005-003, the BLM can avoid all impacts to cultural resources

It is submitted that this oil and gas lease undertaking falls under the purview of the Protocol negotiated between BLM and the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, a document designed to assist BLM in meeting its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, various implementing regulations, and the National Cultural Programmatic Agreement. Further, the view taken here is that the undertaking does not exceed any of the review thresholds listed in Part VII (A) of the Protocol, and that it may be viewed as a No Historic Properties Affected; eligible sites present, but not affected as defined by 36CFR800.4 [VII (A) C (4)]. This undertaking will be documented in the Protocol log and sent to the SHPO in June 2007.

To assure appropriate consideration of future effects from the August 2007 lease sale, the BLM will add the following "lease stipulation" (WO-IM-2005-003), to all parcels offered for lease.

"This lease may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E.O. 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM will not approve any ground disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. The BLM may require modification to exploration, or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized or mitigated." (WO-IM 2005-03).

Special Status Species: Habitat evaluations were conducted for special status species. Parcels containing potential habitat are identified in reports contained in Attachment 4. The Price Field Office determined that the proposed action will not cause adverse impact to the Greater Sage Grouse populations or habitat. In accordance with IM UT-2005-089, all appropriate T&E lease notices would be attached to any nominated parcel. Based on the special status species report and above information, it has been determined that the proposed action complies with the December 2004 USFWS programmatic consultation.

The Greater Sage-Grouse is the only sensitive animal species/habitat that may occur within, or in proximity of the parcel to be offered for sale. Application of appropriate lease stipulations, notices, best management practices and conditions of approval would afford protection for this species for any surface use activities. Additionally, a stipulation for protection of special status species (WO-IM-2002-174) would be added to this parcel.

Wildlife: The parcel offered for lease sale is located within habitat designated as crucial range for Rocky Mountain Elk, Mule Deer and Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep. This parcel would be leased with special stipulations that prevent drilling operations during the crucial time period. Additionally, at further protection would be afforded to these species at the APD stage when best management practices, standard operating procedures and site-specific conditions of approval would be applied. The application of these stipulations, lease notices, BMPs, SOPs, and site specific mitigation applied at the APD stage as COAs including reclamation to re-establish habitat, would mitigate impacts to wildlife.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers: No parcel or portions thereof are located along rivers eligible for wild and scenic river designation is offered in this lease sale.

Wilderness Characteristics: No parcel, known to have wilderness characteristics or identified as likely to have wilderness characteristics, is offered in this lease sale.

Potential ACECs: The parcel offered for lease sale is not located in an existing or proposed ACEC.

Paleontological Resources: Parcel UT0807-114 is located on geologic formations that are known to contain vertebrate fossils. Lease notices to protect paleontological resources during ground disturbing activities have been applied to this parcel. These lease notices notify the operator that paleontological surveys would be completed, as needed, prior to surface disturbing activities. The use of BMPs, SOPs and COAs would assure that paleontological resources are protected. These measures would include monitoring during initial construction when necessary.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

Item 4: Yes for the following parcel:
UT0807-114

Item 4: Rationale for "Yes": The methodology and approach used in the Price District Oil and Gas Environmental Analysis Record, the 1984 and 1988 EA Supplements, the Utah Combined Hydrocarbon Leasing Regional EIS and the Price River MFP are appropriate for the current proposed action because the methods of extraction, land requirements for exploration and development, and potential impacts have not changed substantially since completion of these documents. The basic analysis assumptions included in these documents are still applicable to the current proposal. Coalbed methane production in Utah is essentially the same as conventional gas development as water production is injected below surface, therefore the methods of extraction, land requirements for exploration and development and potential impacts have not substantially changed.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Do the existing NEPA documents analyze impacts related to the current proposed action at a level of specificity appropriate to the proposal (plan level, programmatic level, project level)?

Item 5: Yes for the following parcel:
UT-0807-114

Item 5: Rationale for "Yes": The Price District Oil and Gas Environmental Analysis Record, the 1984 and 1988 EA Supplements, the Utah Combined Hydrocarbon Leasing Regional EIS and the Price River MFP evaluated the direct and indirect impacts of oil and gas leasing per the current leasing categories, whether open to leasing, open to leasing with special stipulations or otherwise. As identified under criterion 3, no significant new information or circumstances have been identified which would render the existing analyses inadequate for leasing the above parcel. Nor have the existing resource conditions and other elements of the human environment changed substantially from those evaluated in the existing documents.

Coalbed methane production was not reasonably foreseeable when the planning documents were prepared. However, coalbed methane production in Utah is essentially the same as conventional gas development as water production is injected below surface; therefore there is no change to the existing resource conditions and values.

6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Item 6: Yes for the following parcel:

UT-0807-114

Item 6: Rationale for "Yes": The cumulative impacts of oil and gas development have been analyzed in the development scenario addressed in the Price District Oil and Gas Environmental Analysis Record, the 1984 and 1988 EA Supplements, the Utah Combined Hydrocarbon Leasing Regional EIS, the Price River MFP and the Price Draft EIS RMP.

The 1988 EA evaluated the cumulative impacts of oil and gas leasing to supplement the Price District Oil and Gas Environmental Analysis Record, August 15, 1975, and the Price River Management Framework Plan Supplement, August 13, 1984. The 1988 EA supplement projected five wells drilled per year between 1988 and 2000 within the Price River Resource Area on lands administered according to the MFP. Estimates also projected that 48 of the 60 total wells would be non-producing, abandoned and reclaimed.

The current reasonably foreseeable development scenario in the Price RMP Draft EIS projects 600 wells on the West Tavaputs Plateau. The analysis contained in the Price RMP draft EIS would allow for multiple wells from each of these locations. The acres disturbed is in line with the expected cumulative impacts on the West Tavaputs Plateau. On August 27, 2005, the Price Field Office published in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for full field development of natural gas resources on the West Tavaputs Plateau to include up to approximately 500 pad locations and 750 individual wells. The NOI for the full field development EIS also specified that development of future leases will be analyzed within the scope of that document.

Because the reasonably foreseeable level of oil and gas activity analyzed previously is still appropriate and additional connected, cumulative, or similar actions are not anticipated; potential cumulative impacts are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the EISs and RFDs.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Item 7: Yes for the following parcel:

UT0807-114

Item 7: Rationale for "Yes": The public involvement and interagency review procedures and findings made through the development of the Price River MFP, the Price River MFP Supplement approved August 13, 1984, and the Environmental Assessment Supplement on Cumulative Impacts on Oil and Gas Leasing Categories for the Price River Resource Area approved on December 23, 1988 are adequate for the proposed lease sale.

In addition, the Price Field Office issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to revise the above land use plan along with the San Rafael RMP in the Federal Register on November 7, 2001 initiating public scoping. This scoping included the No Action Alternative, which represents current management, as outlined in the

1983 Price River MFP and the 1991 San Rafael RMP as altered through amendment and policy since adoption of the records of decision for those plans.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet. An Interdisciplinary checklist is attached to this DNA.

Name	Title	Resource Represented
Sue Burger	Physical Science Technician	Coal
Nathan Sill	Natural Resource Specialist	Minerals
Rebecca Doolittle	Geologist	Native American Consultation
Tom Gnojek	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness, Recreation
Brad Higdon	Environmental Coordinator	NEPA
Karl Ivory	Range Management Specialist	T&E Plants/Weeds
Mike Leschin	Geologist/Paleontology	Paleontology
Blaine Miller	Archaeologist	Cultural Resource
Mike Tweddell	Range Management Specialist	Wild Horses & Burros
David Waller	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Wildlife

F. Mitigation Measures: The following Lease Notices and/or Lease Stipulations should be applied to the identified, subsequent parcel (these are in addition to those applied by the Utah State Office). The asterisk after the parcel number indicates that a portion of the parcel has been deferred.

LEASE STIPULATIONS- WO-IM
<p>1. Lease Stipulation-Cultural Resources (WO-IM-2005-003); This Stipulation Shall be Applied to All Parcels</p> <p><i>"This lease may be found to contain historic properties and/or resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, E.O. 13007, or other statutes and executive orders. The BLM will not approve any ground disturbing activities that may affect any such properties or resources until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the NHPA and other authorities. The BLM may require modification to exploration, or development proposals to protect such properties, or disapprove any activity that is likely to result in adverse effects that cannot be successfully avoided, minimized or mitigated." WO-IM 2005-03."</i></p>
<p>2. Lease Stipulation-Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation (WO-IM-2002-174): This Stipulation Shall be Applied to All Parcels.</p> <p><i>The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that will contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act as amended, 16 U.S.C. §1531 <i>et seq.</i>, including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.</i></p>
LEASE STIPULATIONS (Parcels marked with * have been partially deferred.)

UT-S-114- Elk and Deer Winter Range –Should be added to the following parcel:
UT0807-114
UT-S-124- Sage Grouse Breeding and Nesting Habitat-Should be added to the following parcel:
UT0807-114
LEASE NOTICES
UT-LN-21: High Potential Paleontological Resources-Should be added to the following Parcel:
UT0807-114
UT-LN-38: Historic Properties consultation
UT0807-114
UT-LN- : Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
UT0807-114
UT-LN-56: PFO Lease Notice
UT0807-114
Threatened and Endangered Species Lease Notices
None

CONCLUSIONS

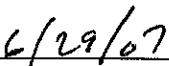
Plan Conformance and Determination of NEPA Adequacy

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that the following parcel conforms with the existing land use plans and has adequate NEPA:

UT0807-114



Signature of the Responsible Official



Date